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RURAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT

U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
APR 2 1962
CURRENT SERVICE RECORDS

newsletter

April 1962

No. 42

*We must show the
world what a
free economy can do
...to put unused
capacity to work,
spur new
productivity and
foster higher
economic growth.
President Kennedy.*

PROGRESS CONTINUES UNDER ARA

● During March, ARA approved the designation of 18 predominately rural areas. These areas, now eligible to participate in the program of the ARA, are in Alabama, Arkansas, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, and Kentucky.

● USDA's Forest Service, under a \$1,500 technical assistance project approved by ARA, will make a feasibility study of a proposed sawmill and lumber finishing facilities in Fairbanks, Alaska. Hiram Y. Halleck, specialist in the Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, Wisconsin, will make the study. Mr. Halleck will work with and through the rural areas development state technical panel and the RAD state committee in Fairbanks.

● Another ARA technical assistance contract calls for the study of possible commercial development of timber-based industries in 33 eastern Kentucky counties. USDA's Forest Service will assist in the study.

SECRETARY FREEMAN CITES RECREATIONAL FACILITIES



● Secretary of Agriculture Freeman recently cited examples of recreational development in farm areas which are proving the demand for outdoor recreation:

"On the South River Watershed in Virginia, one landowner has developed recreation facilities around two reservoirs. He has built roads and had electric lines brought in. Lots are sold for cottages and a large area has been developed for campers who pay a fee for camping, swimming and hunting privileges.

"The people of Plain Dealing, Louisiana, and vicinity built three reservoirs in 1961 to give flood protection for the town and fertile valley lands. One was enlarged to give 104-surface acres for fish production and recreation. Another was enlarged to store water for the town and coming industry, but also provides 98 acres of water for recreation. The town has purchased 60 acres of land around the two reservoirs for access and public recreation use. The town's mayor has said it was the best thing that has ever happened in the community.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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Growth Through Agricultural Progress

"In Texas in the Elm Fork Watershed of the Trinity River, a farmer developed the areas around a seven-acre reservoir on this property for \$500 and sold memberships to his fish and recreational club to 25 selected families for \$25 a year. He plans to maintain and operate the facilities in conjunction with his regular farming operations."

RURAL IOWA, GOOD FOR INDUSTRY

● Dave Bryant, editor of the Iowa Rural Electric News, writes: "Development of rural area industry is the key to success of the broader program of Rural Areas Development."

"When people in a community have good jobs and good paychecks, other desirable facilities -- good schools, better housing, improved roads, sanitation facilities, adequate health care, etc. -- tend to follow.



"That's why the major emphasis of Iowa's Rural Electric Cooperative leadership in RAD is on the development of rural area industry as a means of curbing population decline in rural areas.

"The rural area industry concept, of course, is nothing new. It has been proven. Consider, for example, the industrial development in Iowa's Amana Colonies -- which but a few years ago was primarily an agricultural community.

"To provide local employment for sons, nephews and cousins, Amana Society leadership set up a furniture factory, a woolen mill, a refrigerator manufacturing plant, etc. Skilled craftsmanship and sound management enabled those industries to flourish -- providing good jobs for hundreds of workers.

"As a result, the Amana villages now are among the most alert, prosperous and progressive communities in Iowa. . ."

INAUGURATE WATERSHED RECOGNITION AWARD

● An annual Watershed Recognition Award program has been started by the Journal and Star of Lincoln, Neb. The program will honor Nebraska watershed organizations doing an outstanding job of developing and implementing their programs. The awards will include a plaque, certificates to key individuals, and a \$150 cash award to send members of the organization to the National Watershed Congress.

The ninth National Watershed Congress will be held May 7-8 at Columbus, Ohio. Theme is "Planning For the Nation's Water -- Stage 1." The program will include tours of the Upper Hocking Watershed Project, the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District, and USDA's Hydrologic Research Station near Coshocton, Ohio.

GLIMPSES INTO AREA OEDP'S

● One has only to read an overall economic development plan to visualize the need for rural areas development. There, on a few typewritten pages, are the areas's historic facts, its human resources, its physical resources, its industry, its community facilities, its hopes and ambitions, laid bare for all who can give help.

From a sampling of the more than 150 OEDP's approved by the Department of Agriculture came the following local observations:

● From the people of San Miguel, New Mexico, population 23,468: ". . . We are but asking for the tools, the capital, and the experience to help us. . . One problem is that we lack facilities and personnel to furnish technical information such as market surveys."



● Switzerland County, Indiana, population 7,092: It needs ". . some industry in the county which would appeal to the young people, that would not only furnish them a good livelihood, but also would furnish them an interesting incentive for making Switzerland County their permanent home. . . ."

● Seward, Alaska, population 3,500: "Attempts to bolster the sagging economy by developing the tourist trade have led to organization of an annual Silver Salmon Derby which contributes significantly to summertime income for local sales and service organizations . . . (potential) . . the construction of a ski lift to this area could provide scenic transportation in the summer, and outdoor recreation in winter."

● Hardy County, West Virginia, population 9,308: "An integral part of the Hardy County RAD Inc. is the Moorefield Development Company, a community organization devoted to the industrial and cultural development. Organized in 1956, the company purchased an 11-acre industrial tract. This tract is available for lease or purchase for \$1. . . to any industry employing 40 or more of our people. The development company also purchased the old Moorefield Plywood Plant and leased the factory, which now employs 140 persons."



● Mineral County, Nevada, population 6,329: "It is felt that due to a marvelous climate free from extremes of both heat and cold that this community would be ideal for those seeking homes after retirement. . . ."

● Taliaferro County, Georgia, population 3,370: ". . . Our most cherished resource is our young people. The lack of job opportunities for high school and college graduates . . . force these young people to seek large metropolitan areas in which to make their living. Area goals and program . . . to develop and execute plans for a sewerage system . . . to develop and execute plans for retraining of displaced workers . . . purchase and develop land for industrial park."

BIG CITY NEWSPAPER PICTURES RURAL AMERICA



● In the March 4 issue of the New York Times Sunday Magazine, Andrew Hacker writes: "ninety million Americans, almost half the population, still live on farms or in towns with fewer than 25,000 inhabitants. This part of the country has been losing population at a steady rate and it has not been sharing in the prosperity that supposedly characterizes our affluent society. Despite pleas and inducements, industry is not moving to these areas to the extent it is needed, and small local businesses are suffering from the competition of large national corporations. Young people tend to leave, especially those with skills, education and ambition."

"Nevertheless the citizens of provincial America remain convinced that the values of the small town and small business and local self-government are the bedrock of our national character. The institutions of the family, the local church and school, the independent enterprise, the town meeting -- all these reach their highest development in the hinterland.

". . . If this nation can afford billions for defense and foreign aid, it can also afford to give some help and understanding to sections of the country that are experiencing difficulties in moving ahead with times not of their own choosing."

FARM WIFE RELATES VALUE OF FHA HOUSING LOAN

"Sometimes I think I may wake up at midnight and find our family back in the old house." That is the comment of Mrs. Earl Eddy of Bayard, Iowa, who now lives in a modern rural home, made possible by a housing loan from Farmers Home Administration.

"It is something we have hoped for, for many years," the rural homemaker recalled. But, because of farm debts the rural couple were unable to obtain adequate house financing, until they contacted the FHA field office. Now, the Eddys, who farm 120 acres, live in a four bedroom, electrically heated house.

EXPLORER HILLARY PLANS NATIONAL FOREST CAMPING TRIP

● Sir Edmund Hillary, New Zealand explorer and conqueror of Mt. Everest, visited the U. S. Department of Agriculture last month to discuss a planned trip through America's National Forests, for himself and family this coming summer.



The five Hillarys will journey through the following National Forests: The Arapaho and Routt in Colorado; the Ashley and Wasatch in Utah; the Humboldt and Toiyabe in Nevada; the Tahoe and Six Rivers in California; and the Rogue River, Siskiyou, Deschutes, Willamette, and Mt. Hood National Forests in Oregon.

On completion of this tour, Sir Edmund will prepare a report giving his views and recommendations on National Forest camping facilities and how their design and location can best be utilized by foreign visitors to this country.

RAD HIGHLIGHTS NATIONAL MEETING



Rural Areas Development was an important part of the four-day meeting of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association in March at Atlantic City, N.J. Highlighting a segment of the 20th annual meeting attended by nearly 6,000 persons was a panel discussion on "Rural Areas Development -- where do we go from here?" Joseph F. Gallagher, manager, Socorro Electric Cooperative, Socorro, New Mexico, recounted the hard work done by his local area development group in getting their Overall Economic Development Plan (OEDP) approved, and in securing one of the first ARA loans.

Commented Gallagher: "It was hard work, but it was worth the effort." Besides the panel, there was a rural areas development exhibit, and a rural areas development clinic. Specialists from six government agencies -- Office of Rural Areas Development, Rural Electrification Administration, Forest Service, Area Redevelopment Administration, Small Business Administration, and Housing and Home Finance Agency -- answered questions and gave advice about area development.